

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed December 27, 2006. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 1-5, 8, 9, and 11-23 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, and 11-23 stand rejected. Claims 6, 7, and 10 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 4, 5, 12, 13, and 14 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner objected to Figure 4 stating it does not clearly depict how the substrate is segmented. Applicant amended claim 1 to include the limitation of substrate regions which are shown, for example, in Fig. 1 with numerals 3, 4, 5 and in Figs. 2 and 3 with numerals 103, 104, and 105.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 was objected to because the recitation “between two adjacent substrates” has no antecedent basis, and also because the recitation of “a plurality of semiconductor components situated on a substrate” is confusing in that Applicant’s invention defines only one such component on each physical substrate. Applicant amended Claim 1 accordingly.

Claims 12 is objected to because there is insufficient antecedent basis for “the house”, since the claim has only defined a “module housing”. Applicant amended Claim 12 accordingly.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 13-17, and 19-23 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent No. 1,083,599 filed by Georg Fromme et al. (“Fromme”). Applicant respectfully traverses and submits the cited art does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention.

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal*

Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Furthermore, “the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co. Ltd.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art as anticipatory by the Examiner cannot anticipate the rejected Claims, because the cited art does not show all the elements of the present Claims.

With respect to claim 1:

Applicant amended Claim 1 to define that the connecting element is adjoining the side faces of the two adjacent substrates. This limitation is for example shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the present application. Fromme shows connecting elements that do not adjoin the side faces of the substrate elements 20. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Fromme.

With respect to claim 14:

Applicant amended Claim 14 to define that one or a plurality of connecting elements adjoin opposing side walls of two adjacent substrate elements. This limitation is for example shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the present application. Fromme shows connecting elements that do not adjoin the side faces of the substrate elements 20. Therefore, claim 14 is not anticipated by Fromme.

With respect to claim 23:

This independent Claim includes the limitations:

“- a plurality of substrates arranged on the flat surface of the heat sink;

- a plurality of semiconductor components arranged on the substrates,

one or a plurality of connecting regions arranged directly on the flat surface of the heat sink between adjacent substrate regions, wherein the connecting regions are designed to prevent a deformation of one substrate region to continue to an adjacent substrate region.”

Fromme discloses substrate regions 20 on which semiconductor components 21 are arranged. The substrate regions are arranged on a heat sink 30. The Examiner correctly identified numeral 20 as designating the substrate. However, the Examiner also identified

numeral 20 as allegedly designating the connecting region. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Examiner cannot use the same element to represent two different limitations of the claim. The connecting elements in Fig. 3 of Fromme are designated with numeral 31 and are not directly arranged on the flat surface of the heat sink. Therefore, claim 23 is not anticipated by Fromme.

Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent Claims are allowable at least to the extent of the independent Claim 1 or 14 to which they refer, respectively. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the dependent Claims. Applicant reserves the right to make further arguments regarding the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), if necessary, and do not concede that the Examiner's proposed combinations are proper.

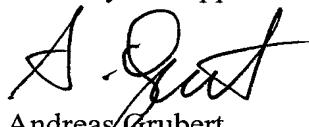
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicant believes there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney, Andreas H. Grubert at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
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